



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Substitute Bill No. 634

* SB00634HS 031809 *

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICATIONS FOR THE TREATMENT FOR OPIOID DEPENDENCY AND MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR SUCH MEDICATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-714a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

3 (a) A licensed health care professional who is permitted by law to
4 prescribe an opioid antagonist may, if acting with reasonable care,
5 prescribe, dispense or administer an opioid antagonist to a drug user
6 in need of such intervention without being liable for damages to such
7 person in a civil action or subject to criminal prosecution. For purposes
8 of this section, "opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or
9 any other similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the
10 federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of drug
11 overdose.

12 (b) Such health care professional shall inform a patient, who is
13 treated for opioid dependency and who receives Medicaid benefits, of
14 the medication options available for such treatment and of the risk of
15 dependency associated with each available medication.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) The Department of Social
17 Services shall inform recipients of Medicaid benefits who are treated
18 for opioid dependency of their right to Medicaid coverage for all
19 medications used to treat opioid dependency, including those

20 medications determined, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency's
21 schedule of controlled substances, to have a lesser potential for
22 dependency than the most widely-prescribed drug used to treat opioid
23 dependency. The department shall provide coverage for Medicaid
24 beneficiaries for all drugs used to treat opioid dependency at the same
25 rate of reimbursement as for the most widely-prescribed drug used to
26 treat opioid dependency.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	17a-714a
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 2, the reference to reimbursement for medications was changed to coverage for medications for accuracy.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*